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28 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

SUBJECT : Further on the CHICOM Coast

REFERENCE :

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1. This is responding to your request which I received through [] this morning for additional background on urgency and importance of the request for coverage of the CHICOM coast by peripheral oblique photography.

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Significance of CINCPAC Request

2. It would perhaps be helpful to review the responsibility of CINCPAC. CINCPAC, with his naval hat, is responsible for the Pacific Theatre with two principal concerns:

- a. The USSR naval forces in the area and
- b. The CHICOM naval forces.

3. In the latter regard, he is concerned about the development and disposition of CHICOM naval forces as may relate to a threat or action against TAIWAN and precedent thereto almost necessarily the offshore islands and also, though with not the likelihood of the foregoing, the possibility of the use of CHICOM naval forces in Indonesia, French Indo-China or other points of possible CHICOM intervention.

4. There is hard intelligence to date that the CHICOMs have built submarines the capability of which is unknown. There is also hard evidence with regard to increase in surface vessels.

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5. Normally CINCPAC would levy an intelligence requirement bearing on naval matters on the CINCPACFLT which would, if the requirement was beyond its capability, levy the requirement on the CNO. The CNO could query CINCPACFLT on urgency and necessity or inform same of Headquarters' inability to assist or make suggestions for the fleet to take action on its own. In effect in this case the CNO is exploring CHALICE capability to meet a seemingly bona fide urgent concern of CINCPAC.

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10. Taking into account the expansion and development of the Chinese naval forces which have been under way, it is still impossible to conclude that all of these types of activity are in fact relevant only to the normal movement both ashore and at sea in that regard. The purposes of such activity cannot be known from such information as is available.

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JAMES Q. REBER
Chairman

Ad Hoc Requirements Committee

JQR:cw

- 1-SA/PD/DCI
- 2-Dir Ops
- 3-ONI (Comdr Larsen)
- 4-file
- 5-chrono

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